

A CITY DESTINED FOR STRIFE STANDS IN POLAND, THE UNHAPPY NATION

Wilno Is Between Capitalism and Communism
In Europe—Whatever Is Wrong Is
Blamed on Russia

Wilno, Poland. — I had a guidebook. I compiled it myself from information contributed by a half dozen pedestrians in Warsaw and a half dozen fellow passengers on the train going to Wilno. I consulted it for almost the first time as I stood on the steps of the Wilno railway station. I read: "Ostra Brama Gate, last remnant of the old city walls; follow street leading from station to station—turn right, second cross street—a few minutes' walk."

The "few minutes' walk" was a gross misstatement. Patriotism, perhaps. It was at least a half hour, if not more, before I got any where. The second cross street to the right ambled along senselessly. One moment it looked as though it might turn into the city; the next as though it might meander off into the countryside. It lacked almost entirely the beauty and picturesqueness one like to associate with narrow, winding streets. Everything in it, houses, trees, sidewalks and the droshkies that occasionally clattered over its cobbled pavement seemed originally to have been intended to be only temporary and makeshift, but somehow they had continued on in decaying grayness, the pavement never coming to take their place.

The Ostra Brama Gate, when it finally put in appearance, was at first glance, more than a little disappointing. Merely a simple arched portal through brick walls. Nothing compared to those of Carcassonne, Aiguemortes or Rothenburg. For this, I reflected disgustedly, on the recommendation of a German-speaking Bialystock policeman, I've wasted a good half hour!

I walked through the gate into the street beyond. On the sidewalks and in the street I saw a host of people kneeling. They were rather poorly dressed and I thought they were beggars. There were far too many to even think of giving a few groszy to one or two, so I hurried along, looking neither to the right nor to the left. I hadn't taken a half dozen steps when I noticed a man rise from among them and approach me. I quickened my pace. He gained on me. I didn't want to run; it would have been humiliating. He touched my shoulder. I turned and Polish issued from his mouth in a seething, hissing torrent.

I shook my head sympathetically and said, "No". Then I said, "Je ne comprends pas," and tried to look uncomprehending. It wasn't difficult. "Ich versteh nicht," "I don't understand," and "Non capisco," followed next and exhausted my store of languages. To no avail. The Polish, intensified, continued to pour from his mouth.

A Strange Reception

I shrugged my shoulders and turned to go. He caught my arm pointed to my hat and began motioning in the general direction of the Ostra Brama Gate. But before I had a chance to look, a sudden violent blow from behind, knocked my hat from my head into the gutter. Personal honor and America's prestige in foreign lands settled with a thud on my bared head. I jerked around, but all I saw was a man piously getting down on his knees behind me.

More Polish hissed, this time in a chorus from the people about me. Several, scowling, impatiently motioned toward the gate. I looked and for the first time I saw the burning candles, the large vases filled with flowers, the statue of the Virgin and the kneeling priest in surplice in a deep balcony above the arch on the inner side of the Ostra Brama Gate.

Immediately everything was clear. These people I had mistaken for beggars were really worshippers; the street was not a street, but an open air church that merely happened to look like a street, and the Ostra Brama Gate, only incidentally a gate, was actually a shrine and a high altar in the old city walls.

The Poles are very proud of the Ostra Brama Gate. They are proud of anything that antedates the partition of Poland in the eighteenth century. They go into emotional somersaults over the Palace of the Jagellones, former kings of Poland, a miserable heap

of broken stones on a high hill overlooking the city of Wilno. They insist that you visit the Cathedral of St. Stanislaus, a Southern plantation mansion topped with statues of saints. They take you to the crypt to see the tombs of the Polish kings, and you have to look beneath the present altar to see the old pagan altar, where until 1383 Perkun, God of Light, was propitiated with offerings. They show you St. Ann's, a cavernous fourteenth century gothic church with fantastic brick facade. And every time you mention St. Ann's some one is sure to tell you that Napoleon, looking at it for the first time, exclaimed, "I wish I could take that gem with me to Paris." After a while you begin to wish he had.

Russia Blamed For All.

And if you have any faults to find with the city, any criticism to make whatever is wrong will be blamed on the Russians and the Czars. In Poland the Russians and the Czars are blamed for everything. If you think the city lacks charm; if the streets with their bumpy cobbles and rattling droshkies, their disheveled trees and dilapidated buildings lack beauty; if the people seem poorly dressed—he Russians! For a hundred and fifty years the Russians occupied Poland. They repaired nothing. They beautified nothing. Their activities were confined to taxing, oppressing and exploiting innocent Poles.

It is the courteous thing, however, not to ask when some of the larger and more pretentious buildings were constructed. Inevitably you force the rueful and hated admission that they are products of the Russian occupation. One of the most thrilling buildings in Wilno, one of the few pieces of real architecture the city can boast is a magnificent Russian church on the Ulca Poholunka. But you'll never hear of it nor see it, unless you accidentally stumble upon it yourself. The patriotic populace of Wilno refuses to acknowledge its presence in the city.

There is another part of the city Poles like to ignore. It is the Jewish Quarter. Poles aren't proud of the Jewish Quarter in Wilno, nor, for that matter, of the Jewish Quarters in any of their cities. Yet Jews were living in Wilno and Poland long before the partition of Poland took place. Driven out of Germany by earlier persecutions in the fourteenth century, Casimir the Great invited them to take up residence in Poland. They were very useful to them. Poland had no merchant class and this the Jews supplied. Gradually they came to play an important role not alone in the commercial life of the country, but in the intellectual and cultural life as well.

Although there is no longer any government legislation restricting Jews to residence in certain parts of the city, the majority in Wilno still live in the contorted tangle of dark twisting alleys which make up their historic ghetto. Streets here are narrow. In many of them it is difficult for even two people to walk abreast. Buildings are barren of adornment, seemingly constructed of the cheapest materials. Stores are small. Some have dirty plate glass windows. Others are mere holes in the walls where the only light comes through the open door, often so small that even a short man must stoop to enter. And everywhere are Jews, only Jews, unmistakably Jews and unmistakably poverty stricken. Different in dress, appearance and customs, speaking their own language, they are a people distinct from the Poles, a people apart. And the Jewish Quarter is a section apart, a bizarre, outlandish, poverty stricken island in the midst of the city.

Destined for Turbulence

Some cities seem destined for turbulence. Wilno is one of them. In a sense it might well be called the Alsace-Lorraine of eastern Europe. For more than a thousand years the staccato of rifle fire, the crash of cannon, the thud of marching feet have been an ever recurring motif in the history of the city. The armies of Poland and Russia have been most in its streets. But Wilno has known the peasant hordes of Lithuania and later her armies, struggling to regain their his-

ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE FORECAST OF AN AUTUMN SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

A Remedy Is Expected To Be Presented For Low
Wage Conditions Revealed In Various Industries—It Will Solve Discontent

Ottawa, Aug. 11—The expectation that the Stevens' committee will produce a remedy for the low wage conditions revealed in the various industries is one of the reasons for the forecasts of a Fall session of Parliament.

This expectation serves to some extent, as insulation against the surging discontent breaking out in riotous strikes in the U. S.

Also there is the insulation of the circumstance that expectations of a new era was not raised here to a great height only to be let down with a shattering effect of disillusionment.

The New Deal, which was to raise wages faster than prices and thereby raise the standard of living, has realized the reverse of its professed objective.

Profits have risen and prices also, but wages not in the same proportion with the result that the mass purchasing power has fallen and the standard of living of the workman has been abased.

Roosevelt's "revolutionary" reconstruction seems to have been mostly camouflage. The violence and bitterness of the strikes indicate a cleavage in the American social structure which will not be healed by a temporary victory of the counter-revolution.

The enormous disorder of the economic life of the U. S. engenders pretentious disorder of mass emotions. ferred from the incentive to depress Roosevelt's ethical codes was to reveal how capital, under the legal compulsion of competition, was driven to

CATS' FUNERALS STIR EVERETT

Everett, Mass., Aug. 12—What is to be done with Everett's dead cats?

That is the question which is puzzling the Everett board of health and Everett police. The health department declares it has no money to pay an agent to bury dead cats—and it says there are plenty of dead cats in Everett to be buried every morning especially along the Newburyport turnpike.

They say it is the work of police to bury them. Police declare that when they were plenty of money available police were not permitted to bury dead cats because somebody got a dollar for every one that was buried. They declare they will not do the burying now that the money has run out.

When anyone complains about dead cats to the health department they are referred to police and when they ask police about it they are referred to the health department, with the result that dead cats stay right out in the open.

The public works department has instructed its employees to bury dead cats when they find them around.

Wilno has been and still is many things to many different people. Catholics revere it as a holy city. Jews call it the Jerusalem of eastern Europe. Lithuania claims it as its historic capital and still mourns its loss. Poles consider it one of the ancient fountain heads of Polish culture. To Russia it is the first outpost of capitalist civilization in the West. Europe looks upon it as the last outpost against communism in the East.

It is a scrubby little town of not more than two hundred thousand people. It may never be anything else. But its name has been written large too often in European history for it ever to be overlooked or forgotten.

THEY DRINK THE MILK AND IMPORT BUTTER

Although the number of dairy cattle in Netherlands India has been steadily increasing in recent years, the demands for cheese and butter are met almost entirely by imports, milk from the domestic cattle being used largely for drinking purposes, states the Agricultural Department of the Canadian National Railways. The imported butter is either cold storage or canned. The imports of canned butter have been on the increase, the greater quantity being supplied by Australia. Due to the great distance of Canada from this market there would not appear to be very great prospects for exporting fresh butter but there is a possibility of developing a market for the canned variety.

SLAYS HIS WIFE'S FRIEND

Charleston, West Virginia, August 12—Lou Topper, 28, was shot and killed yesterday on the mezzanine floor of a Charleston hotel by Dr. O. T. Lyon, a dentist who accused Topper of keeping company with his wife. Dr. Lyon said he had gone to the hotel to "talk things over" with Topper.

HAPSBURG NOT TO HONOR SLAIN CHANCELLOR

Copenhagen, Denmark, Aug. 12 — The Archduke Otto, whose movements are being followed with interest as talk of Hapsburg restoration in Austria is heard, declines an invitation to assist in a memorial service here for the slain Chancellor, Engelbert Dollfuss.

Otto was inclined to accept, but his companions, Count Heinrich Von Degenfeld and Count Alexander Paloravicini, persuaded him to decline in order to avoid the possibility of unpleasant incidents.

TWO INJURED AT RY. CROSSING

Truro, N. S., August 13—Walter MacIntyre and Margaret Ripley were seriously injured and two companions suffered bruises when an automobile in which they rode crashed into a moving box-car at a railroad crossing near here today. John Mowatt, a brakeman, who was on a ladder at the side of the box-car, jumped when he saw the automobile approach and barely escaped as it struck the ladder where he had been standing.

Taking from Peter to Pay Paul

\$16,100,000 is taken away from investors by slight savings for individual customers and tax increases.

Associated Gas & Electric System average residential electric rate has declined 18% since 1928. This is a large reduction. Yet it means only—

2c saved a day for the average residential electric customer—a slight saving—but it is taking away from investors annually	\$6,000,000
Reductions in commercial and industrial rates since 1928 are taking away	3,800,000
Increases in taxes at the rate of \$9,000 a day since 1928 are taking away from investors	3,300,000
The new Federal Revenue Act which eliminates the right of corporations to file consolidated income tax returns (permissible since 1921), it is estimated, will take away	3,000,000
Total being taken away from investors in the Associated System annually	\$16,100,000

\$16,100,000 would pay the interest on nearly \$325,000,000 worth of securities at the rate of 5%.

If rates had not been reduced and taxes had not been increased—

45,000 debenture holders would still have a safe margin of earnings for interest on their investments.

79,000 holders of Convertible Obligations and Preferred and Preference Stocks would be receiving the cash return which they should have.

103,000 holders of Class A Stock would be receiving some return.

The Associated System management has followed the policy of advising security holders regarding developments affecting the safety of their investments. It is in keeping with the present tendency and with the spirit of the Federal Securities Act.

The principal result of confiscatory taxes and enforced rate reductions is to destroy the savings of a large number of thrifty small investors. When, however, the far-reaching consequences are sufficiently realized by investors, and their protests become sufficiently vigorous, they will receive the consideration they deserve and their savings will become more secure.

The purpose of the Associated Gas and Electric Company Plan of Rearrangement of Debt Capitalization is to protect investors against developments like these beyond the control of management.

ASSOCIATED GAS & ELECTRIC SYSTEM

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New York